

RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1951.



ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Chairman of the Health Committee
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. J. FLETCHER, J.P.

Medical Officer of Health
F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector
G. V. R. LEE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
H. F. ROBINSON, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector

Pupil Sanitary Inspector
G. J. HAYWARD (Joined H.M.F. August 1951)

Administrative Assistant
D. NALLY

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1951

Area: 41,990 acres
Population: 22,344 (Census)
Number of Inhabited Houses: 6,598
Number of Council Houses: 539
Number of requisitioned properties: 176
Sum represented by a penny rate: £463
Rateable Value: £116,472
General Rate: 17/-
Birth rate: 15.4
Death rate: 11.4
Infantile Death Rate, per 1000 Births: 26.2
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis: 5; from other Tuberculous Diseases: 1.
Tuberculosis Death Rate: Respiratory 0.22, other 0.04.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1951

To the Chairman and Members of Seisdon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1951 and such is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

The Report deals with:-

- (a) Vital Statistics as affecting the Area;
- (b) General Provision of Health Services in the Area;
- (c) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area;
- (d) Housing;
- (e) Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

It concludes with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities in relation to safeguarding the health of the community.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the general health of your rural district has been satisfactory, apart from a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at Bobbington which mainly affected children, a heavy incidence of Measles, which is in keeping with the biennial trend of this disease, and of Whooping Cough. In the early part of the year influenza was prevalent but never became epidemic.

An observation I should like to make in respect of control of infectious disease, relates to whooping cough. It is this, a hope that in the near future an effective protective vaccine will become available to give immunity or at least to mitigate the distressing features of this disease. At the moment large scale experiments are being carried out and the results appear to be sufficiently encouraging to justify the opinion that immunisation will be available at no distant date.

The Birth Rate was 15.4 and the Death Rate 11.4 per thousand population and Infantile Mortality 26.2 per thousand live births (Infantile Mortality Rate means the number per 1000 births of children who died before reaching the age of one year).

There were no maternal deaths.

The above rates compare favourably with the country as a whole. Comparative Yearly Tables in respect of births and deaths and infantile mortality are given on another page.

Out of a total of 254 deaths from all causes, 184 occurred above sixty years of age, distributed as follows:-

60 - 70 years	...	...	...	57
70 - 80 "	...	...	...	72
80 - 90 "	...	...	...	49
90 and over	...	...	...	6

It will be observed from the relevant Table that the principal causes of death have been heart disease, cancer, vascular diseases of the nervous system and bronchitis, all of which are the diseases to which old people are most likely to succumb. So the increase in the local death rate this year may be mainly attributable to the number of old persons at risk.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 44 as against 29 last year. This increase is disquieting but here again this may be partly due to the number of old people you have in your district population as death from this disease tends to increase with advancing age. Nevertheless, this disease still remains the enigma of the medical world.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 17, as against 12 last year, and the number of deaths 5 as against 4 last year, giving a death rate of 0.22 as against 0.31 for the country as a whole.

From the public health point of view, prevention takes precedence over cure and therefore the importance of the housing drive is obvious in view of the recognised fact that overcrowding and adverse living conditions are contributory to the incidence and spread of this disease.

It is fitting that an annual report besides being informative as to vital statistics and other public health activities in your own district, should also be from time to time informative as to public health achievements nationally, and educative as to public health outlook at the moment and as to trends in the future. The passage of the first fifty years of the present century, with all its notable advances in medical science, suggests that a review of public health progress and achievements over the period is appropriate to this year's report.

I therefore take this opportunity of submitting to you some abridged extracts from an Address, entitled "Reflections and Projections" given by Dr. W. G. Clark, President, Society of Medical Officers of Health and M.O.H., Edinburgh, at the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute held recently at Margate. In my opinion they are extracts so informative and embracing that I feel they ought to be communicated to you.

"The aims of public health are to prolong life, promote health and thereby add to the dignity of man. Perhaps its greatest weapon is the health education of the people. That it is achieving some results is within the experience of all who have spent some time in the service.

Smallpox has never assumed the magnitude that it used to although it has raised its head on occasions. Enteric fever is now a rarity, nearly always associated with a carrier. Puerperal fever, scarlet fever and the other streptococcal diseases have been markedly reduced.

Diphtheria has responded to active measures, both curative and preventive, to such a degree that it is now a clinical rarity.

The decreased incidence of ophthalmia neonatorum has given rise to the suggestion that it should be removed from the list of notifiable diseases. Pulmonary tuberculosis has shown a reduction in incidence and mortality. This is the major infectious disease which has not responded so well to public health measures as the others.

Of interest also is the behaviour of the principal causes of death. Those from diseases of the circulatory system are more than twice as common today as they were thirty years ago, those from malignant diseases are nearly twice as common, while diseases of the nervous system appear more frequently now as a cause of death. This is undoubtedly due to some extent to the success of the public health service in prolonging life, because these are the diseases which appear most frequently in the death certificate of the aged population.

The success of all these efforts which go to make up the public health service is resulting in a saving of lives at the extremes of age, and is creating the problem of the hour-glass type of population in which the proportion of those in the working productive ages is decreasing in proportion to the unproductive members at the extremes of life.

It is apparent that the activities of public health cannot be dissociated from the economic problem. Is it true that the more successful our efforts are in saving life the more we are creating an intolerable burden on the productive members of the population?

The wealth of the country surely depends on the health and the intelligence of those groups between the school-leaving and the retirement ages. The healthier and the more intelligent they are the more they should be able to produce, and the easier should they be able to support those in the extremes of life. These are problems for, amongst others, the economists and the politicians.

"Our predecessors in public health showed that insanitary and overcrowded housing conditions were at the root of many of our problems, and a perusal of the reports of medical officers of health today reveal the problem which still confronts the public health official. All of us would place the housing problem as the most urgent one for local government because, without its solution, real public health is impossible.

The new era of public health will be one of continuous research: physiological, bio-chemical, epidemiological, social, psychological, genetic. All should aim at disclosing the causal and contributory factors which bring so many of our people into the healing branches of our national health service."

The general provision of Health Services in the area would appear to be satisfactory.

The sanitary circumstances of the district and the measures taken to ensure compliance with requirements of the Public Health Act are fully detailed in your Inspector's Report.

I am glad to know that it is the intention of your Rural Council on public health grounds to replace the pan collection and emptying system as far as possible, and also to deal with those cesspools that are causing dissatisfaction, by connecting them up with existing or contemplated sewerage systems as far as economically practicable.

As regards progress made in the erection of new houses and in respect of building programmes, I consider your Council is deserving of the highest commendation.

Many health problems are related to unsatisfactory housing conditions and I am appreciative of consideration given by your Housing Committee to cases I have referred to them on medical grounds.

To strengthen the position in dealing with individual unfit houses on which demolition orders might be desirable, I would urge that the Health Committee be given a fixed yearly percentage allotment of new houses by the Housing Committee so that they might have a definite idea of how many houses to put under demolition orders yearly and so avoid raising false hopes and giving the impression to the unhappy occupants that they are about to be re-housed once their houses are considered to be in the demolition category.

In making the above observation in respect of unfit houses I am not forgetful of those families who may be living in badly overcrowded houses, a state of affairs often brought about by newly married couples having to live with their parents or by being only too glad to get a single room for all purposes in a perhaps already overcrowded household.

I would therefore, press that there be no delay in the re-housing of families who are in unfit or badly overcrowded houses.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support given me by the Chairman and Members of your Health Committee and to commend their watchfulness as to the Sanitary conditions of your rural district.

I also thank the local medical practitioners for their continued co-operation.

I would also record my appreciation and thanks for the efficient services of your Sanitary Inspector and I am not forgetful of the helpful clerical assistance given me by Mr. Nally in recording statistical information relevant to the health of the district.

Your Cleansing Superintendent has kept the routine work of his department going well and has been assiduous in his duties.

Your Housing Officer has been of the greatest assistance to me in trying to solve re-housing problems.

I am also indebted to your Surveyor for his helpful co-operation.

I am glad to take this yearly opportunity of thanking your Clerk for his kindness and advice on points which have arisen from time to time.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1952.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate
Live Births	343	170	173	15.4
Legitimate	329	159	170	
Illegitimate	14	11	3	
Still Births: Total 4. Rate per 1,000 Total Births,				11.5
	Total	M.	F.	Rate
Deaths	254	132	122	11.4
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:				Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:				
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (9)				26.23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births (9)				27.05
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births (0)				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				44
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				Nil

BIRTH RATES

	S E I S D O N		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1942	387	19.6	15.8
1943	417	21.5	16.5
1944	437	22.1	17.6
1945	326	16.6	16.1
1946	367	18.2	19.1
1947	400	19.2	20.5
1948	358	16.4	17.9
1949	349	15.9	16.7
1950	339	15.5	15.8
1951	343	15.4	15.5

DEATH RATES

	S E I S D O N		England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate
1942	198	10.0	11.6
1943	201	10.1	12.1
1944	212	10.7	11.6
1945	206	10.5	11.4
1946	205	10.2	11.5
1947	213	10.2	12.0
1948	196	9.0	10.8
1949	212	10.4	11.7
1950	202	9.8	11.6
1951	254	11.4	12.5

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1951

					M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	4	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	3
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	5	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	17	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	9	17
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	15	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	7	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	21	18
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	5	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	3	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	5	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	13	25
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	5	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	1	-
					132	122

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1951

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age:-

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under one year
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Birth Injury	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	-	-	-	2	1	5	1	-	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	S E I S D O N			England and Wales
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Rate per 1,000 Births
1942	387	19	49.1	49
1943	417	17	40.7	49
1944	437	17	38.9	46
1945	326	20	61.3	46
1946	367	11	30.0	43
1947	400	9	22.5	41
1948	358	11	32.5	34
1949	349	13	37.6	32
1950	339	7	20.6	29
1951	343	9	26.2	30

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Medical Officer of Health is one of the County Assistant Medical Officers of Health, who is posted for part-time duty with your local Rural District Council.

The Sanitary Inspectors are both full-time officers, and are fully qualified Meat and Food Inspectors. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent.

The Health Visitors, three, are under the direction of the Local Health Authority.

In accordance with Part III of the new National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Services which Part III of the Act requires to be provided are:-

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and young children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Visiting.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic Help.

With the exception of the provision of Health Centres, all the required services are being provided in your area.

As regards the General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Departments available, and easily accessible to your area, are those of Stourbridge, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Infectious Diseases:

The Infectious Diseases Hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Facilities:

- (a) Infectious Diseases. The Ambulance Service is provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

- (b) Non-Infectious Diseases. The Staffordshire County Council provides the Ambulance Service.

Tuberculosis:

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available.

Maternity Cases are provided for by:-

- (a) New Cross Hospital.
- (b) Wordsley Hospital.
- (c) Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home.

Laboratory Facilities:

Pathological and Bacteriological examination analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

National Assistance Act:

Three persons were referred to me during the year as being suitable for action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

Two were persuaded to enter an institution voluntarily, the third is still being kept under observation as to the advisability of statutory action being taken.

Mr. Cox, the Area Welfare Officer, gives me valuable support in visiting those aged and infirm people whom I bring to his notice from time to time with a view to ameliorating their living conditions or offering them hostel or institutional accommodation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The water supply of the district, apart from wells, is provided by the following four water undertakings:-

- (a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies the Parishes of Codsall, Wrottesley (Detached), Pattingham and Lower Penn.
- (b) Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies Wombourn, Trysull, Seisdon, Himley and Swindon.
- (c) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which supplies Kinver, Enville and Bobbington.
- (d) City of Birmingham Water Department, which supplies the Iverley portion of Kinver.

I am indebted to the respective Water-Engineers of the above mentioned Water Authorities for the following reports:-

(a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking

- (1) The water supply to the parishes concerned in your Rural District has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity
- (2) The water supplied does not have plumbo-solvent action.
- (3) Subsequent to treatment at the works, where necessary, there has been no known contamination of the supply.
- (4) The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examination of water going into distribution:-

Number of Samples taken	Presumptive Coli-aerogenes per 100 ml.			
	0	1 - 2	3 - 10	Over 10
862	849	7	4	2

Chemical analyses were also made and the results were satisfactory.

(b) Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking

- (1) The water supply serving the Seisdon area concerned is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (2) There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action.
- (3) No action has been necessary in respect of contamination.
- (4) Bacteriological examinations and Chemical analyses are made of the water supplies from the undertakings at Bilston and Tomhill water-works which supply the certain parts of your area and the reports on the samples taken during the year have been satisfactory.
The water is constantly chlorinated.

(c) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

- (1) The water supply to the area in its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (2) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, no lead being detected in the 24 samples examined from the Waterman's house.
- (3) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure.
In case of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. The main, reservoir, etc., is not brought back into use until the water has been

examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (4) The supply to the district is direct from pumping stations at Ashwood and Kinver. During 1951 a total of 76 samples of raw water from Ashwood Pumping Station were examined, 74 of which were free from all forms of coliform bacteria, the remaining two containing bac . coli. All 76 samples of the treated water pumped to supply were free from coliform bacteria.

146 samples of treated water from Kinver Pumping Station were examined of which 144 were free from all forms of coliform bacteria, the remaining two samples containing intermediates. A further 141 samples of water taken from Kinver Reservoir which served part of the Seisdon area were also examined and all were found to be satisfactory.

During the year 27 samples from Ashwood Pumping Station and 109 from Kinver Pumping Station were examined chemically and results were satisfactory.

(d) City of Birmingham Water Department

The water supply to the part of the Seisdon area concerned is from the Department's Elan Aqueduct at Ludlow.

The raw Elan water has a slight plumbo-solvent action which is neutralised with hydrated lime before it enters the Aqueduct.

Bacteriological examinations were made fortnightly and chemical analyses of samples taken at the Aqueduct outlet were made monthly.

Of the 25 bacteriological samples examined, 20 were free from B. Coli, 4 contained from 2-38 B. Coli Type 1 per 100 cc. and 1, 2 B. Coli (irregular other types) per 100 cc.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. F. Bagley, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., your Surveyor has furnished me with the following report:-

"During the past year considerable progress has been made in regard to the provision of deep drainage for the Villages without proper sanitation. By the provision of these schemes much labour will eventually be saved which is at present employed in the emptying of cesspits and pail closets. It will also be possible to bring the old properties up to more modern standards by the provision of W.C's and Bathrooms. Schemes which have been prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Minister of Housing & Local Government are as follows:-

- (1) Pattingham. After a Local Inquiry the approval of the Minister was obtained but the starting date has had to be postponed owing to the unsettled state of the National Economy.
- (2) Bobbington. Approval has been obtained to the scheme in principle and permission given to proceed with the construction of the sewage works and a portion of the sewers.
- (3) Himley. The Local Inquiry in connection with this scheme has been fixed for September 19th 1952.
- (4) Smestow. In this case the Minister of Housing & Local Government, in view of the need for economies, does not consider the degree of urgency warrants the carrying out of this scheme at the present time.

In addition to the above a scheme is in course of preparation for the Parishes of Trysull and Seisdon by the Council's Engineers, Messrs. Willcox, Raikes & Marshall. This scheme is rendered urgent by the inadequate arrangements for the disposal of sewage from 49 houses on the east side of Feiashill Road.

Sewer extensions have also been completed at Greenhill, Sitch Lane, Brickbridge Lane and Bridgnorth Road in the Parish of Wombourn, and the approval of the Ministry has been received for the extension of the sewer in Duck Lane, Codsall.

The Codsall Sewage Works is now running to full capacity and with the anticipated commencement of the large Overspill Housing Sites in the Codsall area it will be necessary to extend the existing works in the near future. For this purpose the Council are taking steps to purchase land adjacent to the site.

From a preliminary survey of the Parish of Trysull and Seisdon it would seem that the natural drainage area is the Smestow Valley in which is located the Wombourn Sewage Disposal Works at Heath Mill. Consideration is, therefore, being given to the enlargement of Wombourn Sewage Works to deal with the sewage from Trysull and Seisdon and also the increase in flow which will be occasioned by the development of Overspill Housing Sites in the Parish of Wombourn.

During the period a Public Convenience has been completed at Maypole Street, Wombourn, and a Workmen's Canteen and Ablution Block completed at the Wombourn Depot"

HOUSING

"Council Houses built during the year 1953. There are 224 Council Houses in course of erection while schemes embracing a further 493 houses are in course of preparation; these include a site for 116 houses at White Hill, Kinver, where much difficulty has arisen in obtaining a site owing to Planning objections by the National Trust. The Council are also committed by agreement to build approximately 750 houses during the next 3 years for Wolverhampton Overspill.

During the past 12 months the Council have made much better progress in the provision of Council Houses and it is anticipated that over 300 houses will be completed during the next 12 months. The Council have also decided to implement the recent suggestions of the Minister of Housing & Local Government to grant more licences for private housing. It should be noted, however, that the existing private buildings estates are being rapidly built up and I am of the opinion that it will be necessary to acquire more land for this purpose during the next few years. To help private builders the Council are taking steps to purchase land at Moat Brook, Codsall, which is to be provided with roads and sewers and sold to private developers."

Your Housing Officer has furnished me with the following information:-

January 1st - 31st December, 1951

Number of families housed in traditional dwellings	81
-----------------------------------------------------------	----

Number of families housed in converted Army huts:

English	57)	
Displaced Persons	48)	105

186

I do not think it would be amiss to give some extracts from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for 1950 on the housing situation.

"Housing accommodation is a prime factor which profoundly affects the standard of living and therefore the state of the public health in its preventive and positive aspects; its psychological and its more strictly material manifestations."

"The strict ceiling which has to be imposed on building repairs, owing to shortages, hinders the reconditioning of property which, neglected, eventually deteriorates beyond a state where repairs can be economically justified, and houses which are unhealthy and have been condemned still have to be occupied."

"Families who live in the poorer type of property, and pay rents of a few shillings a week, have to take on a commitment for rent of twice that amount or more if they accept the higher standard of a council house. This is a problem which is exercising the minds of many medical officers of health and other council officers as to the interaction between rents, nutrition and other living standards and the incidence of illness in households for whom the new rent entails a sacrifice in the diet and other essentials to health."

SANITARY INSPECTION

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year shows an increase on last year, the number of notifications being 567 as against 138 last year.

Scarlet Fever

21 cases were notified, as against 28 last year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 131 cases as against 31 last year. There were 3 deaths.

Measles

387 cases were notified, as against 56 last year. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

No cases notified during the year.

Erysipelas

No cases notified during the year.

Cases admitted to Hospital.

The total number of cases admitted to Hospital for Infectious Diseases was 7.

Hayley Green Hospital:	Scarlet Fever	... ..	2
Stallings Lane Hospital:	Scarlet Fever	... ..	5

Swabs and Specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:

Nose and Throat	... ..	37
Sputa	... ..	88
Faecal	... ..	71

The great majority of the sputa were submitted by the Tuberculosis Officer.

General Measures

School notifications of infectious disease are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

Schools are disinfected when considered desirable. The opening wide of windows to ensure a free circulation of fresh air is also insisted upon during week-ends and holiday periods.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is also carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

Immunisation

Immunisation has been carried out actively in the area throughout the year. Statistical information is held at the office of the Area Medical Officer.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There have been no notified cases of food poisoning in the district during the year, but the occurrence of outbreaks of food poisoning from time to time throughout the country, draws attention to the necessity for the strictest personal cleanliness of all food handlers whether in preparation of food, or in the transport and storage of same.

AGE-GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis)
notified in 1951.

Disease	Total all Ages	At all ages M.	At all ages F.	Under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 to 75 yrs.	75 to 85 yrs.	85 and over
Scarlet Fever	21	9	12	-	-	5	1	4	7	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	131	63	68	11	13	18	29	27	23	7	1	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	387	190	197	25	61	74	67	67	68	15	6	4	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	21	13	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	6	8	3	1
Dysentery	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	567	278	289	37	74	97	97	98	100	26	9	10	7	8	3	1

LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding
Tuberculosis) notified in 1951.

Disease	TOTAL	Boblington	Codsall	Enville	Hinley	Kilver	Lower Penn	Pattingsham	Seisdon & Tryall	Swindon	Wombourn	Wrottesley
Scarlet Fever	21	1	2	1	1	7	3	1	1	-	6	-
Whooping Cough	131	2	18	2	1	9	6	11	13	3	20	46
Measles	387	2	33	4	12	99	24	18	45	19	40	91
Acute Pneumonia	21	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	1	-	11	-
Dysentery	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals:	567	6	55	7	15	118	38	30	60	23	78	137

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified for the year was 17 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary as against 12 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary in 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 4 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 24 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 34 years	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 to 44 years	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
45 to 54 years	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals:	14	3	-	2	4	1	-	1

YEARLY FIGURES FOR THE LAST DECADE

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1942	11	5	7	2
1943	13	9	4	-
1944	14	6	5	2
1945	14	3	7	1
1946	15	3	7	2
1947	16	6	5	1
1948	19	3	10	-
1949	14	3	4	1
1950	12	3	4	-
1951	17	2	5	1

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Seisdon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eleventh Annual Report, that for the year 1951, upon the work carried out by my Department.

Many aspects of the work of the Public Health Department are dealt with in the various sections of the Report. At this point I would like to stress two main features: Housing and Food.

Housing, as for several years past, presents a major problem.

The shortage of labour and materials, coupled with the fact that not all builders are anxious to undertake repair work, has meant difficulty and delay in the execution of works required by Notice. Another obstacle is, of course, the excessive cost of repairs - quite small items may need many week's rent in order to cover the cost. Consequently it is not surprising that there is a steady deterioration in, particularly, the older property, for there is little likelihood of an owner seeing any return for his expenditure where major repairs are concerned.

One or two brighter aspects do, however, appear.

As a result of shortage of houses for sale as is well known houses with vacant possession have been at a premium. This has meant, in quite a number of cases, that houses which would, for the purpose of rental, be quite incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense, have been purchased by people prepared to spend money on making them fit to live in themselves. In one of our parishes alone, as a result of this kind of action, five or six houses which had been graded as Category 5, are now so substantially improved and reconditioned as to be upgraded to Category 1. With the very satisfactory report on Civil Building Licences given by the Chairman of the Housing Committee recently, perhaps we cannot look forward to very much further improvement of these very old houses.

The second point I would make is that there has, during the past two years, been an increased tendency on the part of our Letting Committees to give a greater measure of priority to the occupants of substandard houses. As a result we have been able to make an increasing number of demolition orders. It is true that much of this improvement has been made possible as a result of the conversions in Wroottesley Park - it is, however, to be hoped that with an increasing easing of the housing position in the District, we may be able to turn our attention seriously to rehousing some of the unfortunate occupiers of Category 5 houses.

With regard to Food Inspection and Inspection of Food Premises, work on this aspect has continued with detailed inspections of Food Premises throughout the area. Work in this connection is very largely educative in character but here again, the high cost of repairs does in some measure operate against our efforts. Another point, which may not at first sight appear so very important, is the question of purchase tax on various items of equipment. It does, however, mean, to take one example, that it is very often impossible to insist on really constant hot water (as distinct from a kettle on the hob.)

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and consideration in the carrying out of my duties, to Dr. Mackenzie and other Officials of your Council for their co-operation, and to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Nally for their unfailing and willing assistance at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. V. R. LEE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1952.

1.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	5312
Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	1116
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Preliminary Notices Complied	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Statutory Notices Complied	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

2.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE

HOUSING

Houses inspected	-	Primary	...	...	...	161
	-	Re-inspections	...	...	...	1517
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	15
Survey	...	...	...	...	...	471

FACORIES

Factories Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	51
Factories NO Mechanical Power	..	...	...	...	71
Bakchouses	...	...	...	...	10

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	204
Shops: Meat	...	...	...	...	17
Fish	...	...	...	...	21
General	...	...	...	...	216
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	403
Dairies	...	...	...	...	14
Sampling: Water	...	...	...	...	14
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	84

OTHER ROUTINE VISITS OF INSPECTION

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	61
Camping Grounds	...	...	...	...	31
Drainage	...	...	...	...	475
Infectious Diseases	..	...	...	...	51
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	47
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	81
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.	...	...	...	...	309
Refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	17
Sampling	...	...	...	...	98

Smoke	5
Tents, Mans, Sheds ..	801
Verminous Premises...	3
Farms...	5
Water Supply...	147

3.

COMPLAINTS

One thousand one hundred and sixteen complaints were received during the year under review. They concerned the following:-

Housing Defects ...	122	Refuse Collection ...	130
Water Supply ...	2	Rats and Mice ...	59
Overflowing cesspools	690	Drainage defects ...	113

The complaints were distributed amongst the parishes as follows:-

Bobbington - 53	Codsall - 140	Wombourn - 290
Kinver - 140	Lower Penn - 154	Himley - 15
Seisdon - 110	Swindon - 43	Envillo - 29
Wrottesley - 78	Pattingham - 64	

4.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Routine disinfection of rooms etc. occupied by cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, was carried out, disinfection after cases of tuberculosis, cancer etc. was undertaken at the request of relatives. The method of disinfection is that of formaldehyde, either by stoving or in spray form.

Rooms disinfected	44
--------------------------	----

5.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are eight private slaughterhouses in your area; these have not been in use since the operation of the Government Meat and Livestock Scheme, January, 1940, except in two cases, occasionally for the slaughter of home fed pigs.

6.

ICE CREAM.

During the summer of 1951 the work in this connection was

continued with the inspection of premises and sampling of ice cream. 271 visits were paid to 44 premises at that time storing and selling ice cream.

During the course of these visits 121 tests were made to ensure that the temperature requirements of the Ice Cream Regulations (i.e. the product must be kept at a temperature below 28 degrees Fah.) were being observed. In every case the conditions were satisfactory.

84 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

Grade:	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>Total</u>
	50	23	5	6	84

The Laboratory suggestions as to quality are given below:-

"Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgement should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4."

In view of the above statement it will be clear that the season's work shows a reasonably satisfactory state of affairs, particularly in relation to Grades 1 and 2.

Analysed, the results were:

Manufacturer	Number of Retailers selling in this area	Grade				Total
		1.	2.	3.	4.	
A	1	2	-	-	-	2
B	2	1	3	-	1	5
C	1	-	-	1	1	2
D	1	1	1	-	-	2
E	1	-	-	1	1	2
F	1	2	1	-	-	3
G	1	-	-	-	1	1
H	5	6	5	-	1	12
I	2	1	1	-	-	2
J	1	-	-	1	-	1
K	15	17	6	1	-	24
L	1	1	1	-	-	2
Carried forward	32	31	18	4	5	58

Manufacturer	Number of Retailers selling in this area	Grade				Total
		1.	2.	3.	4.	
Brought forward	32	31	18	4	5	58
M	2	3	-	-	-	3
N	1	1	1	-	-	2
O	2	3	1	-	-	4
P	1	-	-	1	1	2
Q	6	12	3	-	-	15
	44	50	23	5	6	84

It might be appropriate here to quote from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for 1950, in relation to this commodity.

"It must be emphasised that a decision on whether the methods of production of ice cream are satisfactory cannot be made except as a result of inspection at all stages of the operation and by consideration of the results of a number of samples taken throughout the year.

Except in instances of heavy and persistent contamination, as indicated by repeated low grading, advisory rather than legal measures are most likely to lead to improvement. Best results will be obtained where there is full co-operation between the public health officers, the bacteriologist and the manufacturer or ice cream dealer".

7.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

A total of 204 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods.

The following items, were, after inspection, found to be unsound, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption:

16 lbs Margarine

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Butter

3 lbs Lard

10oz. Cheese

612 x $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Tins Milk

1 x $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tin Pears

1 x 1 lb. Tin Sliced Peaches

3 x 14 oz. Tins Sliced Oranges

3 x 1lb. 14oz. Tins Plums

2 x 1lb. Tins Fish

1 x 15oz. Tin Pilchards

14 x 4lb. Luncheon Meat

24 x $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Bris ling

11 x 4oz. Jellied Veal

5 x 15oz. Tins Braised Kidneys

2 x $14\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tins Boneless Cooked Ham.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. 1938.

List of Samples taken during the year 1951.

MILK

Undesignated	12
Pasteurised	12
Sterilised	12
T. T. Pasteurised	7
T. T. Certified	2
Tuberculin Tested	4
Accredited	2
Heat Treated	1

Number of samples taken	52
" " " Genuine	52

GENERAL FOODS

Number of samples taken	34
" " " Genuine	34

Nature of samples:

Sootch Broth	Ground Rice
Creamed Rice (Ready Cooked)	Marmalade
Steamed Pudding Mixture	Processed Peas
Fish Paste (Prawn & Other Fish)	Castor Oil & Zinc Cream
Beef Paste	Borax and Honey B.P.C.
Damson Preserve FFS	Pork Sausage
Tomato & Fruit Ketchup	Beef Sausage
Sauce	Coffee & Chicory Essence
Gravy Browning	Ground Coffee
Sundae Sauce (Raspberry)	Ground Ginger
Mincemeat	Cornflour
Creme-de-Marrons (Chestnut Cream)	Apple Sauce
Orange Curd	Icing Sugar
Cream of Tartar	Cocoa
Almond Flavouring	Ground Cloves
Sweetened Sponge Mix	Curry Powder
Lemonade Crystals	Mirabelle Conserve FFS

8.

MILK SAMPLING.

Milk Sampling is undertaken by the County Public Health Staff and the table on Page 30 gives the results as supplied by the Laboratory

9.

WATER SAMPLING

During the year 14 samples of water were taken, 9 for bacteriological examination and 5 for chemical.

3 bacteriological and 4 chemical samples were reported upon as being satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were obtained at wells during investigations into possible sources of supply for outlying areas.

10.

HOUSING

130 notices were served during the year. These were sited as follows:-

	INF.	STAT.		INF.	STAT.
Bobbington	1	-	Wombourn	25	11
Seisdon	1	-	Kinver	21	9
Codsall	19	5	Himley	-	1
Pattingham	3	-	Lower Penn	2	2
Swindon	5	-	Wrottesley	18	7

The notices referred to the Housing and Public Health defects enumerated on Page 31.

11.

VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS

3 visits were made during the year to houses stated to be verminous or dirty. None of these was actually verminous and no disinfestation was necessary.

On a number of occasions requests were received to carry out treatment of bedrooms at National Service Hostels. These were treated with D.D.T. Generators successfully.

The following disinfestations took place:-

Rooms infected with bugs: 3

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN IN THE RURAL
DISTRICT DURING 1951.

	No. of Samples	Phenol- phthalein Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Methylene Blue Test		Tubercle -bacilli Test		Brucella Abortus	
		Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pass.	Fail.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.
Tuberculin Tested	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	3	-	-
T. T. Pasteurised	16	-	13	-	13	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	58	-	53	-	53	-	-	49	4	-	5	-	-
Sterilised	26	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accredited	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	-	-
Undesignated	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	18	1	44	6	3
Undesignated (heat Treated)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

REPAIRS - INTERNAL

Walls, replastered or painted	34
Ceilings repaired	36
Windows, repaired or provided	9
Doors, renewed or repaired	6
Floors repaired	8
Fireplaces, repaired or renewed	4
Water supply - burst pipes etc. repaired	9
Sinks, provided or repaired	6
Stairs repaired or handrails provided	5

REPAIRS - EXTERNAL

Roofs repaired	43
Chimney stacks repaired	4
Gutters repaired or renewed	7
Rain-water-pipes repaired or renewed	4
Walls, repaired, repointed, D.P.C. provided etc.	24
Water-closets, provided or repaired	18
Pail Closets - pails provided	48
Drainage, cleansed or repaired	48
Cesspools repaired	7
Dustbins provided	96

DEFECTS - INTERNAL

Walls, damp, defective, perished plaster	27
Ceilings, defective and perished plaster	34
Windows, defective frames, sashes, casements	14
Doors, defective woodwork, frames, etc.	6
Floors, defective, dilapidated etc.	10
Stairs, defective treads or risers, no handrail	5
Fireplaces, defective or dilapidated	4
Water supply, burst pipes etc.	8
Sinks, defective waste-pipes etc.	5

DEFECTS - EXTERNAL

Roofs, defective tiles and slates, fillets etc.	42
Chimney stacks, dangerous and dilapidated	4
Gutters, defective or choked	9
Rain-water-pipes, defective	4
Walls, defective brickwork, rendering, pointing	26
Water-closets, defective fittings	19
Pail Closets defective, conversions	54
Drainage, defective or insufficient	49
Dustbins, defective or insufficient	103

As noted in Part 1 of my report, 123 notices were complied with during the year, 110 concerning the housing repairs noted on Page 31.

The premises concerned were sited as follows:-

Bobbington	2	Kinver	20
Lower Penn	3	Pattingham	3
Seisdon & Trysull	6	Swindon	5
Wombourn	40	Wrottesley	14
Codsall	17		

The balance of 13 notices concerned Moveable Dwellings, Animals, Accumulations etc.

12.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Work under this heading has continued throughout the year. As will be noted on Page 25 of this report 801 visits were made to individual moveable dwellings and 31 to Camping Grounds. The standard of the majority of these sites has very greatly improved during the past two or three years. Active co-operation is maintained with the Planning Officers with fruitful results. It is difficult to give an accurate figure of the number of individual moveable dwellings in the District but it is believed to be in the neighbourhood of 300.

It is now the general policy of the Council to restrict licensing under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to genuine trailer-caravans and tents.

Two former camping grounds were cleared during the year, both in the Kinver area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff

The work carried out by the Department relates to house refuse collection and disposal, salvage collection and disposal, cesspool, pan and privy emptying and the cleansing of Public Conveniences. There are 31 men employed for this purpose.

Vehicles

During the year 5 Morris Commercial refuse lorries and one Karrier Cesspool Emptier were in daily use. All the vehicles gave good service and very little time was lost due to mechanical defects. The servicing and maintenance of the vehicles in the Depot has now been in operation for 2 years and has proved satisfactory, particularly from a financial angle.

Collection of household refuse

The refuse collection service provided for the emptying of all dustbins in the district, where accessible, once in every 11 working days. The service was regularly maintained apart from occasional irregularities due to illness, holidays and inclement weather.

Disposal of refuse

The Council have three tips in use at Kinver, Wombourn and Codsall, all have been covered with soil and levelled off.

Cesspools

There are approximately 450 cesspools in the area which are emptied on request.

Pans

All pans in the area (approx. 950) are emptied weekly.

Privies

The 12 privies still in use are also emptied on request.

Public Conveniences

There are two for males and two for females situated in Kinver. During the summer months these are cleansed two or three times per week and once weekly during the winter. Only minor damage was caused to these premises during the year.

Salvage

Salvage is collected and brought back to the Council's Salvage Depot in Wombourn by the refuse vehicles. Baling is carried out by one man using a hand operated press.

The total amount of materials salvaged and returned to industry was 76tons 12 cwts. which realised an income of £1,059.

Litter

In an attempt to deal with the litter nuisance, 35 extra litter baskets were fixed in the various parishes and 30 "Keep Britain Tidy" display cards were distributed in the area.

General

During the coming year I hope to be able to reduce considerably the interval of collection. Now that the Council have purchased a Mechanical Shovel, controlled tipping will be practised on the Kinver and Wombourn tips.

It is envisaged that due to the increase in the population of the district within the near future, it will be necessary for the present labour force and equipment to be supplemented if the service is to be carried out satisfactorily and the interval between collections is to remain as at present. There is still difficulty in recruiting the right type of labour for the purpose, but I consider the most pressing need is for a new vehicle to be placed on order in the near future. The Dennis 4 bay refuse collection vehicle purchased in January, 1952, is giving very good service and the Council would be well advised to place an order for a similar type of vehicle.

Another problem with which the Council may be faced, which I consider may become acute in the future, is the provision of suitable tips. The Council's tip at Kinver will be completely "filled in" in approximately 12 months time. In the north of the district I have earmarked a suitable place for tipping which would last 6 or 7 years. The Wombourn tip at Botterham will last approximately 25 years. There is, however, no tip in the Pattingham area and I emphasise the importance of this matter, for I consider that a saving of money can be effected if suitable tips can be found in the areas from which the refuse is collected.

H. F. ROBINSON.

Cleansing Superintendent.

September, 1952.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

This table is enclosed by request of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128 (3) to be furnished in their annual reports with respect to matters under Part I and Part VIII of the Act which are administered by the District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEUSDON IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Reg- ister (3)	No. of:		Occu- piers prose- cuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	8	71	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (2) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938.	2)	15)	51	-	-	2
(b) Others	3 )	)				3
(iii) Other premises under the Act (Excluding out-work-er's premises	4	-	-	-	-	4
TOTAL		23	122	-	-	

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspect- or (5)	By H.M. Inspect- or (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of clean- liness. (S.1)	5	5	5				5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6						6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8						8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9						9
Sanitary con- veniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	10						10
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	2	2		2		11
(c) not separate for sexes	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork	13						13
TOTAL		7	7		2		

